

# Michelle Miller named Freeborn SWCD's Outstanding Conservation Farmer for 2007...



Michelle is shown here with her daughter Mariah in their WRP wildlife planting.

Each year our SWCD honors a local farming operation that we feel has done an extraordinary job of preserving and protecting their soil & water resources. This year's winners are Michelle and Mike Miller of Hollandale. They have 250 acres devoted to corn and soybeans plus another 38.7 acres in a permanent Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) Easement.

They have an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Contract on most of their cropland acres. It includes Nutrient Management and No-Till/Strip-Till Practices. They apply manure from local sources, but Michelle says "we don't over apply commercial fertilizer", we apply only what's needed according to soil tests.

Their 38.7 acres of WRP features two wetland restoration areas, and a multi species native grass and forbs planting. Some conifer and hardwood trees have been planted along one edge of the easement. A 10 acre CRP tree planting owned by Michelle's Grandfather is located adjacent to this area and is managed and maintained by Michelle and Mike.

Michelle is active in community affairs and involved in the local Ag Economy. In October of 2006 she was appointed by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners to fill a vacant position on the Turtle Creek Watershed, Board of Managers. Recently, she was certified as a "Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planner" (CNMP) for nutrients and pest management. Michelle is a graduate of Iowa State University and is working on a Masters Degree in Agronomy. Her husband Mike works for Fagen, Inc. as an Electrical Forman at their Lyle, MN Plant, Absolute Energy.

We congratulate the Millers on their conservation accomplishments and wish them continued success. They will be invited to attend the 2007 Convention of the MN Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts as guests of our SWCD. It will be held at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, December 2<sup>nd</sup> thru the 4<sup>th</sup>.